

### CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of using 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof ~~for improving reendothelization and vascular endothelial function in a patient~~ comprising improving reendothelization and vascular endothelial function in a patient by administering 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof with a device at the an injured site in the lumen of a blood vessel having suffered vascular injury, wherein 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 1 to 5000  $\mu$ g/Kg of patient's body weight.

2. (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50  $\mu$ g/Kg of patient's body weight.

4. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30  $\mu$ g/Kg of patient's body weight.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin (HPCD).

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 5, wherein HPCD is present in a dose capable of solubilizing 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof.

7. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 4, wherein said 17- $\beta$  estradiol or a derivative thereof is admixed with a carrier comprising at least 0.63 mg hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin per kilogram of patient's body weight.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim 1, which comprises a single administration.

9. (cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) A ~~The method as defined in~~ of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- $\beta$  estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 9 1, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- $\beta$  estradiol or derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 1, wherein said 17- $\beta$  estradiol or derivative thereof is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

13. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 1, wherein said 17- $\beta$  estradiol or derivative thereof is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

14. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 1, wherein said method uses 17- $\beta$  estradiol.

15. (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 14, wherein 17- $\beta$  estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 50  $\mu\text{g/Kg}$  of patient's body weight.

17. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 14, wherein 17- $\beta$  estradiol is present in a dose unit of 10 to 30  $\mu\text{g/Kg}$  of patient's body weight.

18. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim 14, which comprises a single administration.

19. (cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim ~~19~~ 14, wherein the device is a catheter containing said 17- $\beta$  estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (Currently amended) A The method as defined in of claim ~~19~~ 14, wherein the device is a stent coated with said 17- $\beta$  estradiol, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Currently amended) The method as defined in of claim 14, wherein said 17- $\beta$  estradiol is administered following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).

23. (Currently amended) The method as defined in of claim 14, wherein said 17- $\beta$  estradiol is administered simultaneously to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).